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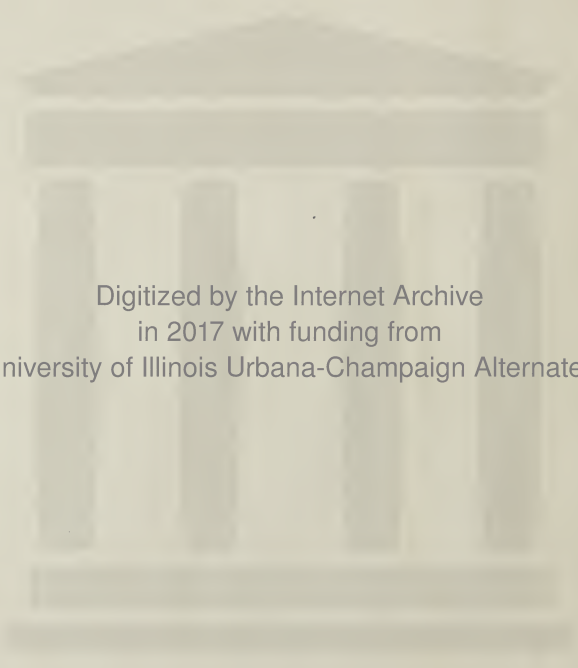
JAPANESE CODE OF EDUCATION

PROMULGATED

The 29th of the 9th Month of the 12th
Year of Meiji.

(1879).

TRANSLATED & PUBLISHED
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THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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CODE OF EDUCATION.

ART. I.

The educational affairs throughout the Empire shall be under the control of the Minister of Education and consequently all schools, kindergartens, libraries etc., both of public and private establishments shall be under his supervision.

ART. II.

The schools shall be elementary schools, middle schools, universities, normal schools, special schools and other institutions of learning.

ART. III.

The elementary school shall be a school in which primary or elementary instruction is given to children in the following branches of study: the elements of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, morals etc.; and, according to the local conditions, linear drawing, singing, gymnastics etc., and the

outlines of physics, physiology, natural history etc., shall be added, and especially for the benefit of female pupils, some other branches of instruction, such as sewing, shall also be provided.

ART. IV.

The middle school shall be a school in which higher instruction is given in the common branches of study.

ART. V.

The university shall be a school in which law, science, medicine, literature and other special branches of study are taught.

ART. VI.

The normal school shall be a school for the training of teachers.

ART. VII.

The special school shall be a school in which instruction is given in one special branch of study.

ART. VIII.

It shall be lawful for any persons to establish any of the schools above enumerated.

ART. IX.

All wards (in cities or towns) or villages shall severally or jointly establish public elementary schools, unless such wards or villages have private elementary schools deemed to be of equivalent public benefit to the people, in which case it shall not be obligatory upon them to establish public elementary schools.

ART. X.

A school committee shall be organized in each ward or village for the management of its school affairs:—but it shall be left for the ward or village to fix the number of persons constituting the committee and to determine whether any compensation shall be allowed or not.

ART. XI.

The school committee shall be elected by the people of the said ward or village.

ART. XII.

The school committee shall be under the supervision of the governor of fu or ken, and it shall be the duties of the said committee to take general charge of the attendance of pupils

and the establishment and maintenance of schools.

ART. XIII.

The period of eight years, from six to fourteen years of age, shall be fixed as the school age of every child.

ART. XIV.

Every child shall receive elementary instruction for a period of sixteen months at least during its school age.

ART. XV.

Parents or guardians shall be responsible for the school attendance of such of their children as are of school age:—And whenever, owing to some particular or unusual circumstances, they are prevented from attending schools, the reasons for such failure to attend shall be laid before the school committee.

ART. XVI.

In the public elementary schools, the course of study shall extend over the period of eight years, but on account of local conveniences this period may be reduced to not less than

four years, in which case the instruction shall be given for not less than four months in each year.

ART. XVII.

Where children have the means of receiving elementary instruction in any other way than by attending schools, such instruction shall be recognized to the extent that it is equivalent to that of the public schools.

ART. XVIII.

In any localities where the means are inadequate for establishing and maintaining schools, it shall be lawful to organize a system of itinerary instruction for teaching children.

ART. XIX.

Schools shall be classed as public and private: those which are established and maintained out of local taxes or at the public expense of the wards or villages in which they are established, shall be called public schools; and those which are established and supported at the private expense of one or more individuals, shall be called private schools.

ART. XX.

A public school shall be established or abolished with the approval of the governor of fu or ken.

ART. XXI.

Upon the establishment or abolition of a private school, a statement to that effect shall be presented to the governor of fu or ken.

ART. XXII.

The course of instruction of a public school shall be submitted to the Minister of Education for his approval.

ART. XXIII.

Upon the establishment of the course of instruction of a private school, a statement of the same shall be presented to the governor of fu or ken.

ART. XXIV.

The expenditures for any public schools which are established by the vote of the fu or ken assembly shall be paid out of the local taxes, and those of the public schools which are established by the vote of the people of a

ward or village shall be paid out of the said ward or village rates.

ART. XXV.

In case schools established and maintained at the expense of any wards or villages require to be aided by the local taxes, the matter shall be submitted to the consideration of the fu or ken assembly and be carried into operation according to the decision of that assembly.

ART. XXVI.

Public school sites shall be exempt from taxation.

ART. XXVII.

All contributions either pecuniary or otherwise which are made for educational purposes shall not be used or appropriated in any way other than that designated by the donors.

ART. XXVIII.

For the purpose of assisting public elementary schools, the Minister of Education shall annually distribute a certain amount of the Government aid to each fu or ken.

ART. XXIX.

The governor of fu or ken shall distribute the Government aid received from the Minister of Education among the public elementary schools.

ART. XXX.

No portion of the Government aid shall be distributed to any elementary schools which have not been in session for a period of more than four months during the preceding year.

ART. XXXI.

It shall be lawful for the governor of fu or ken to contribute from the Government aid to any private elementary schools which he deems to be of sufficient public benefit to the people of the wards or villages in which they are established.

ART. XXXII.

It shall be lawful to contribute from the Government aid to any wards or villages where itinerary instruction is maintained for at least four months a year.

ART. XXXIII.

Public normal schools shall be established in each fu or ken.

ART. XXXIV.

Public normal schools shall grant certificates to their own students who have completed the course of study and passed the final examination.

ART. XXXV.

Public normal schools shall grant certificates to other applicants than their own students when, on examination, they are found to be properly qualified to receive the same.

ART. XXXVI.

For the purpose of encouraging the improvement of the public normal schools, the Minister of Education shall have discretionary power to distribute a certain amount of the Government aid to each fu or ken.

ART. XXXVII.

Teachers of either sex shall be over eighteen years of age.

ART. XXXVIII.

Every teacher of public elementary schools shall have received a certificate from a normal school:—but it shall be lawful for any person to be employed as a teacher without a certificate, provided he can furnish evidence that he possesses sufficient qualifications for his duties.

ART. XXXIX.

The Minister of Education shall from time to time send out officers of the Department to fu and ken, for the purpose of inspecting the actual condition of educational affairs.

ART. XL.

Every school, either public or private, shall be open to inspection by the officers sent out by the Minister of Education.

ART. XLI.

The governor of fu or ken shall annually prepare a report concerning the actual state of educational affairs within his jurisdiction and forward the same to the Minister of Education.

ART. XLII.

In schools in general, pupils of both sexes shall not be taught in the same rooms:—but in elementary schools teaching both sexes in the same rooms shall be permitted.

ART. XLIII.

A school fee shall be charged or remitted according to the circumstances of the schools.

ART. XLIV.

Children who have neither had small-pox nor been vaccinated shall not be admitted to the schools.

ART. XLV.

Persons affected by any contagious diseases shall not be admitted to the schools.

ART. XLVI.

No corporal punishments (such as whipping or binding with ropes or cords) shall be inflicted on the pupils in the schools.

ART. XLVII.

Parents or guardians of pupils shall be permitted to attend any and all examinations that may be held in the schools.

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